Amendments of the Claims

The following listing of claims, if entered, will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified patent application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented)   A method for controlling an unmanned vehicle ("UV") with a state machine on said UV, said method comprising:

entering a state of said state machine;

receiving an input on said UV;

evaluating a condition of a rule corresponding to said state using said input;

performing at least one action corresponding to said rule based on a result of said evaluating; and

reconfiguring said state machine as a new state machine.

2. (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein said reconfiguring is responsive to said performing at least one action.

3. (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein said reconfiguring alters a transition of said state machine.

4. (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein said reconfiguring alters a rule of a state of said state machine.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein said altering said rule comprises altering a condition of said rule.

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6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said performing at least one action comprises altering navigation of said UV.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said altering navigation comprises rotating a servo of said UV.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said receiving of said input comprises receiving data from a sensor mounted on said UV.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein said sensor is configured to measure the status of onboard equipment on said UV.

10. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein said data comprise data indicative of a position of said UV.

11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said receiving of said input comprises receiving data from a camera mounted on said UV.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising transmitting said data from said camera to a ground station.

13. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said performing at least one action comprises setting a second input.

14. (original) The method of claim 13 further comprising evaluating a condition of a second rule using said second input.

15. (previously presented)   A method for managing a first participant in a network of unmanned vehicles and ground stations, wherein said network includes at least one other participant, said method comprising:

maintaining first state information about said first participant;

transmitting an update of said first state information to said at least one other participant;

maintaining second state information about said at least one other participant; and

receiving an update of said second state information from said at least one other participant.

16. (previously presented)   The method of claim 15 wherein:

said first state information includes information received from a first sensor mounted on said first participant; and

said second state information includes information received from a second sensor mounted on said at least one other participant.

17. (previously presented)   The method of claim 15 wherein:

said first state information includes information about a first mission status of said first participant; and

said second state information includes information about a second mission status of said at least one other participant.

18. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising sending a command to one of said at least one other participant.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein said command affects navigation of said one of said at least one other participant.

20. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein said transmitting said update comprises:

determining a probability that said update will experience interference from one of said at least one other participant in a channel;

comparing a quantity based on said probability to a threshold; and

transmitting in said channel when said quantity is less than said threshold.

21. (original) The method of claim 20 wherein said threshold is based on a message indicative of whether said one of said at least one other participant will transmit during said channel.

22. (previously presented)   The method of claim 20 wherein said determining said probability comprises determining an urgency of a message from said one of said at least one other participant.

23-32. (cancelled)

33. (previously presented)   A method of communicating between a first sender and a recipient, said method comprising:

determining a probability that a second communication from a second sender will interfere with a first communication from said first sender to said recipient in a channel;

comparing a quantity derived from said probability to a threshold; and

communicating between said first sender and said recipient in said channel based on a comparison of said derived quantity to said threshold.

34. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein said determining said probability comprises determining a position of said second sender.

35. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein said determining said probability comprises determining whether said second sender intends to communicate in said channel.

36. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein said determining said probability comprises determining a message urgency of said second sender.

37. (original) The method of claim 33 further comprising:

determining that said communicating from said first sender to said recipient is of a relatively high urgency; and

using a channel assigned to said first sender to perform said communicating.

38. (previously presented)   The method of claim 33 wherein:

said channel is assigned to one sender belonging to a group of senders that comprises said first and second senders; and

said determining a probability comprises determining whether said channel is assigned to said second sender.

39. (previously presented)   The method of claim 38 wherein:

said probability is set to a first value when said channel is assigned to said second sender; and

said probability is set to a second value when said channel is not assigned to said second sender.

40. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein said channel comprises a time slice.

41. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein said channel comprises a frequency.

42. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein said channel comprises a set of frequencies whose selection is based on a correlation code.

43. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein:

said channel comprises a time slice;

said communicating occurs at at least one frequency; and

said at least one frequency is selected based on a correlation code.

44. (previously presented)   A system for controlling an unmanned vehicle ("UV") with a state machine on said UV, said system comprising:

means for entering a state of said state machine;

means for receiving an input on said UV;

means for evaluating a condition of a rule corresponding to said state using said input;

means for performing at least one action corresponding to said rule based on a result of said evaluating; and

means for reconfiguring said state machine as a new state machine.

45. (previously presented)   A system for managing a first participant in a network of unmanned vehicles and ground stations, wherein said network includes at least one other participant, said method comprising:

means for maintaining first state information about said first participant;

means for transmitting an update of said first state information to said at least one other participant;

means for maintaining second state information about said at least one other participant; and

means for receiving an update of said second state information from said at least one other participant.